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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 11 and 86-93 as set forth below.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether a subject is a carrier of a mutated *BLM* gene comprising detecting the presence or absence of a mutated *BLM* gene in nucleic acid of said subject, wherein the mutated *BLM* gene is a mutated form of nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:78 and wherein the mutated *BLM* gene is located between loci D15S1108 and D15S127 of human chromosome 15.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the subject is an embryo, fetus, newborn, infant or adult.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the presence of the mutated *BLM* gene is detected by one or more techniques selected from the group consisting of sequence analysis, restriction enzyme digestion analysis, hybridization and polymerase chain reaction.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the presence of the mutated *BLM* gene is detected by the presence of a gene product encoded by the mutated *BLM* gene.

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